

CROPS AND BUSINESS.

The Prospect Ahead for Both in This Section of the Country.

MORE THAN AN AVERAGE YIELD

Is Expected, Although the Wet Weather Has Retarded Corn.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK GENERALLY FAIR.

From present indications the crops of Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and West Virginia will be above the average. In some sections wet weather and similar causes have operated to the disadvantage of certain staples, but in few cases does this reach any disastrous extent, and in many localities the harvest promises to be unusual in its abundance.

In a general sense the business outlook is very fair. The disaster in the Cosumeh Valley of course completely prostrated trade in that section, which can, therefore, hardly be considered in the estimate. Uncertainty in some lines has had a depressing effect, but the outlook for the future is considered to be bright in almost all quarters. Building operations, in particular, are active, and this is taken as a sure indication that a confident feeling prevails.

Through the courtesy of Arthur B. Wigley, manager of the Pittsburgh Mercantile Agency of R. G. Dun & Co., the reports from the various points in this region are given:

PENNSYLVANIA.

Cannonsville.

The corn crop has been injured by continued wet weather. Weeds are generally above the corn, which is not growing. Wheat and oats promise to yield unusual crops if they get a few days' sun to fill out the heads. Potatoes promise well.

Business all depends on coke and coal, and consequently is dull, with not much outlook for immediate improvement.

Indiana.

Wheat looks well. Corn is not doing much good. The floods have kept the corn back, and it is yellow in color and small in the stock. Rye looks well. We never had better prospects for a good wheat and rye harvest. Oats and grass are coming along nicely and promise the usual yield.

The business outlook is not very good. The floods in the Cosumeh have been felt by the people of our county, and not until late in the season can business be expected to boom.

Washington.

The condition of crops is good. It looks as though the wheat would be better than the average yield in almost all features.

The business outlook is also good. Should the wool crop go off early things generally will be in a prosperous condition. Some of the farmers complain somewhat of depression, but in case wool sells well it will relieve the strain somewhat.

West Brownsville.

Corn not doing as well as it should, but will be an average crop. Wheat and oats are in excellent condition and will be above the average. Hay will be a good crop. Apples, peaches and plums will be an average crop. Berries of all kinds are in abundance or prospects look that way. Potatoes look very fine and will be above the average.

The business outlook is very poor. There is nothing doing here and stockholders are complaining of very little money in circulation. Capitalists in this section have plenty of money, but are afraid to make investments unless they are assured a profit.

Cannonsburg.

The outlook for wheat, grass and oats is splendid, and the prospect for abundant crops in all the above is very flattering. The condition of crops of all kinds are in abundance or prospects look that way. Potatoes look very fine and will be above the average.

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Zelienople.

Prospects for a full crop of every kind of grain are unusually bright. Grass will be heavy. The wet, cool weather has prevented the bugs from harming the potatoes. Apples will be a nuisance, but peaches are not so plenty.

The business outlook is fair, but money is scarce; too much of it has gone into dry holes, the nearest producing well being five miles east.

Rochester.

Everything is looking fair for big crops except corn, and so much rain and so little sunshine is turning the corn yellow as gold, and it is not growing. The fruit trees are all loaded and extra large. The extra large crops of all kinds of fruit. It looks as if there would be an unusual large crop of hay in Beaver county and also a good crop of potatoes.

The business outlook is as bright as one could hope for, but the building trade is going up in our cluster of towns than usual.

Salisbury.

The crop prospect is good, especially wheat. The wet weather, with rather cold rains at times, has kept back the working of corn and potatoes, and spring crops are not in as good condition as they would have been with less rain and more sunshine. Still indications now and then of a good average crop all through. The peach crop will be light, apples will be a good crop and some cherries.

Business is very dull. There appears to be only about two-thirds of general trade there was at the same time last year.

Leechburg.

The wheat is first class. The corn is poor, and unless it soon recovers it will be light. Prospects for a fair turn out are good all around.

Business is quiet. If the scale is signed all will move on nicely. The cold, chilly weather and so much rain has caused business to be quiet.

Reynoldsville.

The condition of crops is very good. The low grass land along the streams has been washed over and considerably damaged by recent floods.

The business outlook is good; the output of coal in this region is large, with prospects of increase. The lumber trade is good. Some of the lumbermen, especially those along the larger streams, lose largely from heavy floods washing out their dams.

Mt. Pleasant.

The crops in this section look splendid, except the corn, which is coming along very slow on account of the wet weather. Wheat and grass was never better. Oats look well, too. There has been too much wet weather for farming purposes.

The business outlook is and around is not so bright. All kinds of trade seem rather dull, especially since the Johnstown disaster. The coke business is slow, and therefore affects other trades more or less.

Greensburg.

The season thus far has been one of unprecedented rain. Its effect upon the crops is very apparent. Wheat is exceedingly good and well advanced. It will be ripe for harvest much earlier than usual. Corn and oats are short and as yet sickly, caused by the great amount of cold rain and cool nights.

The great storm which seemed to culminate in the Johnstown calamity, has completely paralyzed the business of this vicinity. We think this deadness is merely temporary, and with the rebuilding of the destroyed towns and railways trade will again revive. Coal trade along the Youghiogheny river is a very uncertain factor, caused by the want of the Baltimore

and Ohio Railroad Company to haul coal to the lake ports, thus practically closing a great industry and throwing 15,000 men out of work.

Millerstown.

Wheat, oats, rye and grain are in excellent condition and promise better than average crop. Corn is very backward.

Business seems to be in healthy condition. We are largely dependent upon the oil industry and its influence. The outlook for market prices is better than for past few years, owing to large reduction in stocks.

Chickadee.

Wheat, rye and grass very heavy. Cotton rains may injure wheat. Oats looking well and bid fair to be a good crop. Corn very poor for the time of year, but with fair weather may do well.

The business outlook is not promising for an agricultural district. Low prices of grain have made money scarce and collections slow.

Pannauway.

Wheat, rye, oats and grass are all in excellent condition. Wheat looks the best ever seen in this county. Corn is backward and weather unfavorable.

The business outlook at present is good. The mines running strong keep local trade active.

Bellevue.

Wheat is above the average, and with favorable weather will give a good crop. Corn is backward, owing to cold and wet weather, but has a reasonably good start. Very little replanting was done. The oats crop prospect is only moderate. Meadows are in excellent condition.

There is a good healthy improvement in all kinds of business. Money abundant, which is being invested in permanent improvements. Wheat is plenty and few failures.

New Castle.

Condition of crops in general is good. The cold, wet spring has made some crops slow and backward. Of wheat, about an average acreage is in, and a large crop is assured. Oats are fair. The yield will be a little less than the average. Corn has suffered from adverse weather, but there is yet ample time for its full recovery. The early grass crop is very heavy.

The past has been a successful year with business institutions here, and the only menace to a continuance of prosperity is in possible labor troubles among iron and glass workers. Remove this one cloud, and the sky will be found brighter than for many years.

New Brighton.

All the crops here are in excellent condition. Manufacturers are all complaining that orders are very scarce. Brick business has not been so dull for many years. Pottery business moderate.

West Bridgeport.

The grass crop is good. Corn is not so promising yet, though it may improve by a little dry and warm weather. Oats is first rate, and potatoes very promising. Other vegetables good. Apples and peaches are abundant.

The business outlook is fair. Some new building is starting up, and some building being done.

Brookville.

The crops generally are not in first class shape for this season of the year. Grass is looking well. Oats are fair and corn very poor. Wheat and potatoes are in fair condition.

Business is reasonably good. Money matters are a little tight and collections rather slow. We are just beginning to get straightened up after the late floods. Our lumbermen report an increased demand for lumber at better prices.

Irwin.

The crops in this vicinity have been somewhat injured by the continued rain and wet weather. Oats look very well. Corn and potatoes promise well, although the lack of sunshine affects them unfavorably. On the whole the chances for more than an average crop are good.

The Johnstown disaster and consequent destruction of the railroad and entire stoppage of the coal business has made business very flat all over this end of Westmoreland county, which we trust will be temporary. The business outlook is not very encouraging.

OHIO.

Niles.

All crops are recovering from the effects of the recent cold weather, and give promise of a good yield.

The business outlook is good.

Youngstown.

Crops here are in good condition. Apples and other fruit in sections have been killed by frost.

The business outlook is fair. The prospect is that the mills will run steady with fair profits and satisfactory orders.

Wellsville.

Farm crops are generally in a good condition. The weather has been fair for some time for several years. Corn and oats have a good start, and fruit prospects are very good for an off year.

The business outlook is good. All our manufacturers are running, with prospects of increased trade, and considerable building is being done.

Alliance.

Wheat is good. It suffered from dry weather last fall, but the weather has been very favorable. Oats very good. Corn poor and backward, weather being too cold. The prospects for hay are very good.

The outlook for hay seems to be good. Collections have been slow during the winter and spring, but are now better.

Caldwell.

Wheat is an average crop. Corn is backward, owing to the cold weather throughout the month of May. There will be some fruit, but not an average crop.

The business outlook is fairly good. The wool crop is going off early at an average of 30 cents per pound, which will stimulate business to some extent.

Dresden.

Wheat in this county looks fine now since the late rains. The corn is coming in fine. Grass looks well and will make a very fair crop.

The business outlook is good and every one is well pleased and all are busy. Wool is bringing from 30 to 32 cents.

Mineral Ridge.

Wheat is looking well. Its yield will be an average. Oats also look well for a large crop. Cold weather has not been very favorable to its growth.

The business outlook is very fair for this time of the year. Farmers are beginning shearing their flocks and expect good prices for wool.

Massillon.

Wheat looks very well and promises a very fair crop. Corn is backward, with plenty of time in which to yet pick up. The outlook for all is now good.

The larger manufacturers and the coal mines are all well employed, and business generally seems to be moving along steadily and safely.

Canal Dover.

The wheat crop is very promising and will be fully up to the average. The corn crop is very backward now, on account of cold weather, but with warm weather will come all right.

The business outlook is quite satisfactory. Trade quite as good as for a number of years past, and seems to be increasing in the different lines.

Salineville.

The crops here, in a general way, never looked better. The wheat crop is very promising and will be fully up to the average. The corn crop is very backward now, on account of cold weather, but with warm weather will come all right.

The iron business seems to be overdone, and as this part of the valley is considerably dependent upon it, a crash of trade it is seriously affected by it. The glass business is some better, but is not what it should be.

Zanesville.

Rather less than average amount of wheat. The condition of upland and sandy crop is good. Corn is from 2 to 10 inches high, color good and prospects fair. Oats good.

Wool is selling for 30 to 32 cents. Last year the same wools brought but 25 to 27 cents per pound. Building in Zanesville is active.

Newcomerstown.

Corn is backward, caused by cold weather, but looks well and with a favorable fall will be a full crop. Wheat, rye and oats are short on the straw, but will be a fair crop.

The business outlook is not better than last year at this time. Farmers are not selling wool at 30 cents readily as formerly.

Selo.

Very good prospects for all crops but oats, which is moderate.

The business outlook for Selo is very good. Farmers complain of low prices for stock and farm products generally, but with the prospect of growing crops the outlook is cheering.

Marietta.

Wheat prospect is good. Corn just getting started, with prospects of a good crop.

The business outlook is fair.

Cedar Falls.

Every indication is favorable to a promising and large crop. Corn is a little slow, but improving.

We have had a successful year in all lines of business. Failures have been small and few, and everything points to great prosperity.

New Philadelphia.

Wheat crop is good, except in low lands. Corn has been poor until the last week, but is looking better. Prospects never were more favorable for good crops. Oats and barley good. Grass good.

The business outlook is now better from the fact that the mines are running steady, there being a better demand for coal, and no prospect of strikes.

Parkersburg.

The acreage is considered up to the average. Grass is abundant, under frequent rain, but danger is feared for the wheat from rust, unless clearer weather shall prevail. A large acreage of corn is planted and bids fair for large yield, unless unfavorable weather occurs. Prospects are for an average yield of all crops.

Trade has been quiet for several months and now seems to be slow. Merchants report slow collections and sales reduced.

Wheeling.

The continued rain this season, while it has been detrimental to some crops, has been favorable to others, and as yet there is no serious damage to be noted on account of wet weather. Hay will be an exceptionally good crop. Wheat looks very promising, and if we do not have too much rain before harvest to cause rust, the prospects are for a good average crop. Corn has been retarded by the wet and is not as far advanced as it should be at this season, but good growing weather will bring it on all right and insure at least an average yield of all crops.

The heavy and continued rains we have experienced, have proven beneficial in most sections of the State in bringing out timber from the small mountain streams, some of which have been lying there for years. Most of the country merchants in this State are interested directly or indirectly in the lumber business, and the getting out of this timber will put in circulation considerable money. The general tone of business is hopeful, and while merchants are not buyers do not look for any decided "boom," they anticipate a legitimate and satisfactory trade.

Belmont County.

Generally the crop prospects in this county are fair, and the prospects are for a fair average crop in grain, corn, etc., and berries and other small fruits will be plentiful.

The business outlook is satisfactory, and dealers generally look for a satisfactory condition of trade.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Wellsville.

Wheat prospects are quite favorable. Acreage about the same as last year, possibly an increase. Oats prospects favorable for full crop. About same acreage as last year. Corn is short for season of year, but it is not too late for a good crop with favorable conditions.

The business outlook is favorable for a section of country.

West Union.

The condition of crops is good. The business outlook is likewise.

Jackson County.

Wheat, oats and grass have very good prospects. Wheat threatened with fly. Corn and potatoes promise poorly, owing to cold rains, which still continue.

The business outlook is fair. Everything seems plenty except money, which is very close and hard to get.

Sistersville.

Corn, wheat, oats and hay are looking splendid. The first crop will be a very fair one.

The business outlook is dull here. We look for close times this summer, as there is but little work for our laboring men to do.

Clarksburg.

The outlook is very encouraging, and indicates the best crop of hay, corn, wheat, oats and rye for a number of years past.

The business outlook is somewhat more promising than heretofore because of the abundant crops in prospect, and the increase and stir in home enterprises caused by the new railroad in course of construction.

Buckhannon.

The season thus far has been quite wet. Grass is rank, and gardens are excellent. It is rather wet for crops—wheat, oats and corn—but so far none have been damaged, and a full average may be expected.

Money is close and very scarce, but few heavy debts are being carried; no failures have occurred and none are looked for. Money will be plentiful when the wool and cattle for the year go.

New Cumberland.

Wheat and grass good. Oats fair. Corn poor on account of too much rain and cold weather.

The business outlook is fair, though money seems scarcer and closer than three months ago.

Elizabeth.

The crop prospects in this section may be regarded as fair. The grass crop bids fair to be more than average; fruit average, and corn looks well at this season. Of wheat there is a large acreage sowed and looking well.

The business outlook in this valley is very good. Owing to the continued rains the lumber business is exceptionally good, and owing to the good crop prospects the general trade outlook is promising.

Jackson.

Wheat will be an average crop in quality, but not in quantity. Corn is promising, something over the average acreage. Grass excellent. Oats good.

Money very scarce. Business outlook only fair.

Beverly.

The corn at this time, owing to the unusual amount of rain, does not look very well. Wheat, oats and grass look well. Prospects for a good crop are fair.

The business outlook is very good, better than usual, owing to the fact that the West Virginia Central Railroad is being built through the county.

Spencer.

It has been just a little too dry for

wheat crop, still it is in no danger yet, and if weather clears up there will be good wheat crop. The outlook for corn is good. Hay is very good.

Wool is at a better price than for years. Timber is in good demand and at good prices. The business prospects are good.

Fairmont.

Wheat is in excellent condition, but if the heavy rains continue it will no doubt injure it some. Grass also is excellent in this county. Corn is not doing well. It has been too wet. Unless there is a change in the weather soon there will not be an average crop. Wheat, oats and grass will be considerably above the average.

The business outlook is not extra. We are having some business on account of the building of Monongahela Railroad, but our mines are not running much and there seems to be no prospect of their resuming full operations soon.

New Martinsville.

Corn is backward, wheat excellent and grain and clover likewise. The frequent rains are injuring crops, but if drier weather should shortly come on everything would be all right.

Business is duller this year than last. Our merchants seem to be doing a fair business, but there is not the slightest prospect of a boom in anything.

Addison.

Oats and wheat in this section of the State are good. Corn looks well, but the heavy rain has prevented the farmers from working it.

The business outlook in this county is good.

Mannington.

Wheat was under in better condition in this section. Oats fine. Corn very backward, but it has a good stand. The heavy continuous rains up to this date have been very injurious to wheat and corn.

In this county business depends on the condition of the roads. Instead of drying up, as usual at this time, they are as bad as at any time last winter. They have had a bad effect on business, of course.

Winfield.

There is a good stand of corn and about the usual average of oats. Wheat is above the average crop and looking well and more than the usual average.

Business is dull and nothing promising in our county.

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